
Trustees: Kathy Archer*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab^(R), Dawn Danko*, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut^(R), Todd White, Elizabeth Wong*, Abby Zaitley^(R). Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti, Evelyn Watson, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

*electronic participation, ^(R) regrets

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

RESOLUTION #26-01: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that Trustees Dahab, Tut and Zaitley be approved as absent for the February 2, 2026, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

2. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #26-02: Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLUTION #26-03: Trustees White/Buck moved that the Minutes from December 15, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

4. Policy

RESOLUTION #26-04: Trustees Noble/White moved that the Policy Committee report from December 4, 2025, be approved including:

- The Barrier-Free Physical Learning Spaces Policy.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

5. Program

RESOLUTION #26-05: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Program Committee report from December 11, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

6. Finance & Facilities

RESOLUTION #26-06: Trustees Buck/Noble moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from December 16, 2025, be received.

RESOLUTION #26-07: Trustees White/Noble moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee explore a budget from Proceeds of Disposition that could be allocated towards HVAC upgrades and scope a set of guiding principles to determine how schools should be prioritized for HVAC improvements.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

RESOLUTION #26-08: Trustees Fehrman/Noble moved that the Finance & Facilities report from January 13, 2026, be approved including:

- A. Key Parameters and Assumptions to Guide the Development of the 2026-2027 Budget
- B. Budget priorities for public consultation
- C. Waterdown Boundary Review
 - i. That the geographic area described below becomes the boundary for the new Waterdown Elementary School and is removed from the Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary School current attendance boundary:

Commencing at the corner of Dundas Street East and Hamilton Street South, running southeast on Hamilton Street South to 50 Hamilton Street South, then east around the property lines of 50 Hamilton Street South, then southeast along the eastern edge of the property lines of 56 Howard Boulevard to 320 Hamilton Street South, then east along the southern edge of the municipal boundary to Kerns Road, north on Kerns Road to Dundas Street East, and finally west along Dundas Street East back to the corner of Dundas Street East and Hamilton Street South.
 - ii. That the boundary change comes into effect with the opening of the new Waterdown Elementary School. At that time, all Regular Track JK to 8 students located within the new boundary will attend the new Waterdown Elementary School.
 - iii. That students in Grades 7 and 8 residing within the boundary described in Part A be provided the option to remain at their current home school (Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary School or Flamborough Centre Elementary School) with no transportation provided. Siblings of these students will attend the new school. In accordance with the Ontario Education Act and all applicable Ministry of Education directives, should the Boundary Review transition planning process determine that viable Grade 7 and 8 programs cannot be established at the new Waterdown Elementary School upon opening, these students will attend their current home school (Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary School or Flamborough Centre Elementary School). For the purpose of this recommendation, a viable program is defined as the ability to deliver the curriculum and required instructional components as intended by the Ministry of Education, including program organization, assessment, and reporting practices and supports for students learning and transitions.
 - iv. That all new JK to grade 4 students registering for the 2026-2027 school year within the new school boundary (described in Part A) be redirected to Mary Hopkins Elementary School, until the new Waterdown Elementary School is opened.
 - v. That Mary Hopkins Elementary School retain the Regular Track Grade 5 cohort, effective for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - vi. That Mary Hopkins Elementary School retain the French Immersion Grade 5 cohort, becoming a dual track JK- 5 school, effective in the school year that the new Waterdown Elementary School is opened.
 - vii. That a Transition Committee for each of the affected schools currently operating is struck by the Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement upon approval of the boundary change.
 - viii. All student transportation will be provided in accordance with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's [Transportation Policy No. 3.10](#).

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

7. Parent Involvement Committee

RESOLUTION #26-09: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from December 9, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

8. Special Education Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #26-10: Trustees Fehrman/Noble moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from December 17, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

9. Resolution Into Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

RESOLUTION #26-11: Trustees White/Fehrman moved that the Board move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session) be approved for matters related to S207.2 (b) of the Education Act, that include *the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian.*

CARRIED

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

10. Committee of the Whole (Private)

RESOLUTION #26-12: Trustees Buck/Noble moved that the Committee of the Whole report from February 2, 2026, be approved, including:

- The Finance & Facilities Committee Report from December 15, 2025, noting a property matter.
- The Finance & Facilities Committee Report from January 13, 2026, noting property matter actions to support Metrolinx's Hamilton LRT project at the Westdale and Dalewood school sites.

CARRIED

11. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success

Trustee Fehrman provided an update as follows:

- HFSS held its AGM on January 13, 2026, reporting a strong fiscal year with a surplus, welcoming two new Board members (Jen Pearson and Katie Nicolson) and thanking outgoing members Brent Foreman and Lorraine Valmadrid.
- Streamlined processes for Student Support Grants have improved fiscal oversight, and unlike 2024–25, no suspension of grants is anticipated this year.
- Prom Project Hamilton is confirmed for March 28, 2026, at Sir Winston Churchill; student and volunteer registration and donation information are now live.
- The Fall Cycle of Enhancement Grants awarded \$1,000 each to 13 schools; Winter Cycle applications are under review, and a recent Arkells social media post boosted visibility for an HFSS-supported school fundraiser.

12. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided an update as follows:

- The Legislative Assembly of Ontario remains on winter recess until March 23, 2026.
- OPSBA submitted feedback to the Minister of Education on proposed regulations related to police access to schools and SRO programs under Bill 33.
- OPSBA hosted the Public Education Symposium featuring sessions on generational research, climate leadership, ombudsman insights, and workshops on special education, reconciliation, and student well-being.
- Regional Council Meetings were held during the symposium where trustees discussed proposed governance changes to the structure of regional councils. An OPSBA's Board of Director's special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 to consider amendments to By-Law No. 5.

13. Student Trustees Report

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided the following update:

- Recognized Black History Month and highlighted his work to uplift Afro-Black-Indigenous student voices and announced his role as a guest speaker on Feb. 26 for the Hamilton Public Lecture Series on local Black history.
- Attended Toronto Metropolitan University's Screen Break initiative, focused on digital literacy and healthy screen use and participated in a conversation with Trey Yesavage, hearing insights on screen awareness, discipline, and balance in the digital world.
- Attended the OPSBA Public Education Symposium, engaging in meaningful conversations, professional learning, and networking with trustees and staff.
- Co-facilitated a keynote panel through the *Possibility Seeds High School 2* project, discussing student-led work and the importance of youth partnership in change-making.

Student Trustees Bizanti and Watson provided the following update:

- Team 2056 began its robotics build season with strong engagement, emphasizing teamwork, innovation, and problem-solving.
- Planning for Future Preparedness Day progressed, finalizing workshops, guest speakers, and hands-on activities focused on career pathways, life skills, and post-secondary readiness.
- Student trustees will participate in the February 19-22 OSTA-AECO Education Action Conference in Ottawa.
- Highlighted the HWDSB-YMCA Winter Break Food Drive, with 8 secondary schools participating, significantly expanding last year's initiative; five schools conducted a food drive for the first time, supporting leadership growth and sustainability of future initiatives.

14. Director's Report

Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini provided her [monthly update](#) and highlighted HWDSB's literacy focus, noting strong structured instruction, targeted interventions, and improved student outcomes. She thanked staff for their leadership and noted the publication of the February *From the Director's Desk*, which centres on themes of love, belonging, and community, and acknowledged significant cultural observances taking place throughout February, including Black History Month, Ramadan, Lunar New Year, and Family Day.

15. Chair's Report

Chair Miller highlighted Trustee Kathy Archer's recent receipt of the Order of Hamilton, recognizing her decades of community service, volunteer leadership, and longstanding commitment to supporting children and families.

The Chair also thanked trustees, student trustees, and staff for representing HWDSB at the OPSBA Public Education Symposium; acknowledged February observances, including Black History Month; and expressed appreciation to custodial and school-based staff for their work during recent snow days and for maintaining safe school operations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Reference: [Agenda](#), [Recording](#), [Recording 2](#)